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of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network
Paper of the Year



Courtesy of Governor's Inn

College vacation? Although relatively far from campus, rooms at the Governor's Inn for a full semester are around a full \$600 cheaper than on campus.

Hotel used by Reslife to meet housing demands

Will Clements
Editor in Chief - VIO

William and Mary has found a new way to handle the high demand for students opting to live on campus for the 2009-2010 year. The Governor's Inn located by the train station on Henry St. will house a small number of students. Pricing for these rooms starts at \$1920.00 per semester for double occupancy and \$2400.00 per semester for single occupancy, a much better deal than on campus housing that can cost as much as \$643 dollars more for the same occupancy rates. Weekly linen service is also included at no charge for students, a perk that no other on campus housing option offers.

According to Residence Life's website, this innovation comes as students have had increasing difficulty finding on-campus housing. Hundreds of students are "bumped" from the on-campus housing lottery each year. Residence Life says, "In response to the demand for on campus housing or housing that is close to campus, the College has arranged with a local hotel to offer a small number of rooms to William and Mary students."

Although there are available dorms not currently being used by the College, notably the Dillard Complex on Ironbound road, the College has chosen this arrangement, presumably due to the remote location and unpopularity of the Dillard dorms.

College earns promising rankings

Kirk Vernegaard
News Editor

The College of William and Mary continues to perform well in the *US News* annual ranking of elite colleges. The rankings were released on August 20 and came shortly after equally positive reviews by *The Princeton Review* and *Forbes*. The College stands 33rd overall among all public and private universities and 6th among all public institutions, according to *US News*. *Forbes* ranked William and Mary 48th, and highest among traditional public universi-

ties ranked by *US News*.

In the past few years, the *US News* ranking has stayed consistently in the low 30's despite a financial resources rating of 88th. This is the lowest resources ranking of any elite institution in the top 50—a metric symbolic of 'The College's "public" status. *US News* has, however, been criticized in the past for using statistical models biased of public institutions. Top publics such as The University of California at Berkeley

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'Three' person law may become 'four'

One planning commission member wants it to be 'two'

Michael Young
Assistant Features Editor

The so-called "three-person rule" has been one of the most prominent points of contention between the campus community and the city of Williamsburg in recent years. Three years ago it was discovered that students were facing eviction from houses due to the City's use of the Student Directory to locate those students in violation. An *Informer* investigation led to the discontinuation of this tactic by prompting a change to the directory's privacy policy.

Over the summer the city has been mulling changes to the rule to allow four unrelated people to live in a house. The proposal contains numerous restrictions, mandating that there be at least four bedrooms, two bathrooms, enough parking for residents, and that trash and recycling bins be contained in an enclosure. Permission to house four persons in a house would be acquired through an application and an \$800 fee. Contingent on receiving permission is agreement to allow the house to be inspected once a year and consent to not allow subletting.

City Council referred the proposed changes to Williamsburg's planning commission, which

will hold a public hearing on September 23 at 4pm to solicit comment from the community. On August 19 the planning commission initially discussed the proposal. Of the five commission members present none were as strident in their opposition to the changes as William Kafes. Mr. Kafes said "we should talk about a decrease too," noting that he would consider it reasonable to limit the number of unrelated individuals allowed to live in a house to two.

"Anything goes under the three person rule," Mr. Kafes said, "you can live in a garage." Other members of the commission were more reserved in their initial statements. Jim Joseph told other members that he was concerned that a public hearing on the proposal would dredge up old wounds between students and non-student residents. "We [could] have someone stand up like four years ago and say 'students are a cancer'" Mr. Joseph said.

Chairman of the planning commission Douglas Pons recommended that the city take into consideration the number of houses that could be affected. Member Elaine McBeth suggested that following a public hearing on

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New term brings new faces to administrative leadership

Andrew Blasi
Editor at Large

Less than one year following Taylor Reveley's formal appointment as the 27th president of William and Mary, the College will begin this academic year with new faces at four senior administrative posts.

Serving as interim vice president for Student Affairs since the retirement of Sam Sadler ('64, M.Ed. '71) in June 2008, Virginia Ambler ('88, Ph.D. '06) was named vice president for Student Affairs last May. She was one of four finalists recommended to President Reveley in the spring by a national search committee chaired by Professor Clay Clemens. Ambler's selection from among the finalists was widely anticipated by the campus community, as she has worked in the College's Division of Student Affairs since 1991. During that time, Ambler served as assistant to Sam Sadler from 1991 to 2001 and assistant vice president for Student Affairs from 2001 to 2008.

In April, the College's Board of Visitors elected Henry Wolf ('64, J.D. '66) to succeed



REVELEY

Michael Powell ('85) as the College's next rector. The rector serves as chair of the Board of Visitors and is the most visible representative on campus of the oversight body, attending numerous College functions alongside the president. Wolf is the former vice chairman and chief financial officer of Norfolk Southern Corporation, one of the largest railway companies in the United States, and was first appointed to the Board of Visitors in 2003. Wolf succeeds Michael Powell, who served as William and Mary's rector for three years and was the first African American to serve in that position in the College's history. Michael Powell was the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from 2001 to 2005 and is the son of former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Last March, it was announced that Michael Halleran will serve as the College's fifth provost. As provost, Halleran will be responsible for all academic budgets, academic and re-

ADMINISTRATION CHANGES
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AMBLER

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Williamsburg rolls out trolley service

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Reckless spending, controversy addressed by the Student Assembly

A re-cap of last year’s Student Assembly news

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor - Student Assembly

The 2008-2009 academic year was an eventful one for the Student Assembly. The year started with a bang when popular former Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen, then serving as Vice President, resigned from the SA. The SA went on to pass many pieces of legislation and held a very engaging spring time election. Among the legislation passed last year was a 2 dollar decrease in the student activities fee (which had typically been experiencing annual increases), and SA funding for a second golf cart for service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega (APO). Legislation also paid for a recycling initiative, and \$20,000 was spent on AED’s to be located around campus. Perhaps the biggest news concerning the SA was Sara Rojas (’09) and Ryan Ruzic (JD ’11) upset victory against Horacio Carreño (’09) and Michael Douglass (’11) in the spring election. The Rojas-Ruzic victory was quite a surprise- the ticket was rescued an hour before the March 18th deadline, when Rojas’s original vice presidential candidate withdrew, the spot later being filled with Mr. Ruzic. Mr. Carreño and Mr. Douglass appeared to be the stronger candidates but were apparently defeated by what Election Commission Chair Matt Beato (’09) noted as increased voter participation by grad school students.

The SA also lead student protest against General Assembly consideration of increasing the in state student ratio, and the 711 Richmond Road controversy. In the latter William & Mary professor Ruth Griffioen kept detailed logs of information that would have removed four students from the property who were living in violation of the infamous three person rule. The evidence against them was based on parking activity at the house. There were also accusations that the said professor had trespassed, and the SA considered bringing legal action against the said professor, with Matt Pinsker (’09) proposing legislation to hire a private investigator to collect evidence against Ms. Griffioen. The SA also weathered a lot of criticism. Retired President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler, described it as an “elite club.” Many Senators are involved in Greek life and are out-of-state students. Re-election is almost a guarantee; challengers face a steep



Brianna May

Duties debated: Senators were more likely to be found arguing about minor variations in wording, rather than big-ticket expenses last year.

uphill battle. They have also been criticized for squandering money on events with almost no student turn out (like a Student-Police tailgate at 10am on a Saturday) or the \$9000 spent on agenda books- and such spending is often approved without any significant deliberation. The SA also experienced a big embarrassment when it sent a letter to the Board of Visitors complaining about the undemocratic process that

lead to the selection of Taylor Reveley as president of the College. Mr. Reveley served as interim president after Gene Nichol’s abrupt resignation, but he was also a contender in the initial national search that chose Nichol. When the Rector, Michael Powell received the letter he said it “looked like a hoax-” it was not signed by any of the SA senators, did not have a letter head, and was sent some time after Mr. Reveley’s approval.

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Editor at Large

Informer alumnus’ investigation featured on FOX News

Former Editor-in-Chief of this newspaper Joe Luppino-Esposito (’08) discovered that NBC was selling t-shirts featuring the image of President Obama with the slogan “Yes we did” prominently. Mr. Luppino-Esposito posted the information on his blog with the claim that the merchandise was evidence of a political bias in NBC News and its subsidiary MSNBC, which is popularly considered more favorable to liberal causes. After other conservative blogs reported the existence of the merchandise, FOX News, which is considered more favorable to conservative causes, reported the story, with a brief mention on The O’Reilly Factor.

Teach For America recognizes W&M as a top contributor

Teach For America announced the schools that placed the most graduates in the 2009 Teaching Job Corps program, with the College placing seventh among medium-size (3000-9999 students) schools. Of the Class of 2009, 36 graduates took places with Teach For America. In all, the program took on 4100 new teachers this year from 550 colleges. William and Mary also placed fifth among medium-sized schools in producing Peace Corps volunteers, with 46 undergraduate alumni currently serving.

O’Connor receives Medal of Freedom

College Chancellor and retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was presented with the

Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama on August 12. The Medal is the United States’ highest civilian honor. O’Connor, the first woman to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, was appointed in 1981 and served until 2006. In retirement, she has served as a member of the Iraq Study Group and on the Board of Trustees of the National Constitution Center as well as College Chancellor.

W&M Website Team Honored

The College’s redesigned website was recognized at the 2009 Web Communications Conference. EduStyle, a web design gallery specializing in higher education, gave the awards. The College’s site and team were nominated for Best Redesign, Best Overall Website, and Best Use of Photography, taking home the judges’ honors in the Redesign category and the People’s Choice award in that and the Best Use of Photography category.

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Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers via responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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Record-breaking Senior class gift leaves high expectations for 2010

Brittany Lane

Features Editor

What began with a slow initial level of support culminated in a booming success. The Class of 2009 concluded the year with 76% class participation in their yearlong campaign, breaking the former record, set in 2001, by 3%. Seniors dedicated over \$156,000 in gifts and pledges for the College this past academic year.

Beginning in the fall, each senior class works with the College's Development Office to encourage seniors to participate in this program, which deepens the tradition of giving back to the College. A committee of seniors, led by the Senior Class officers, runs the program, brainstorming and organizing events and fundraisers, such as the popular Wine & Cheese event. Publicity for the program remains the foremost goal all year. Seniors have the choice to make a monetary donation or future pledge to any program or department of their choice.

Donations support a variety of programs, such as scholarship funds for students, sports teams, campus organizations, faculty research funds, and campus facilities. The vital support from these eventual alums helps attract and support top-notch students and accomplished faculty. Furthermore, the commitment to the program propels the maintenance and construction of the College's facilities, such as Swem Library, the Integrated Science Center, and the newly completed Mason School of Business's Alan B. Miller Hall.

In the beginning of last year, some expressed concern that support was too low. *The Informer* reported that participation by early spring was well below expectations. However, Kevin Dua, former Class of 2009 president, maintains that "every Senior Class Gift experiences a common trend of an early good start, sluggish middle and then a final push." While the economy prompted many to

fear an unsuccessful campaign, students seized the vision of giving back and erased any worries by year's end.

"We wanted to encourage our seniors and ultimately make a strong statement to the College that the Class of 2009 was thankful for the education received and would continue in some way to give back," said Mr. Dua. Grateful students, a dedicated committee, and a little luck were the key ingredients to a successful Senior Class Gift.

At the end of last year, the Class of 2009 received an engraved cipher representing the percentage of those who donated or pledged support on a stone on the Senior Walk. This path is located outside of Tucker Hall.

Mr. Dua stated that he and the Senior Class Gift committee sought to achieve 80% participation with \$100,000 in future pledges. While class involvement fell just short of that goal, the broken record still attests to the drive of students at the College of William and Mary. Senior Class President Alyssa Wallace ('10) believes that "the momentum that last year created, especially



Courtesy of Christian Amonson.com

The Presidential treatment: Members of the Senior Class Gift committee pose with President Reveley.

at the end, is going to carry over," and propel the efforts of the upcoming year. "We certainly have big shoes to fill," said Wallace.

The underlying mission of the Senior Class Gift rests on the notion that graduates hope that younger students and future members of the Tribe will experience the same benefits they received during their journey at the College. In the end, the goal relies on the seniors to fulfill their pledges and continue to support what they loved about their unique experiences at the College.

Campus police to re-sell confiscated student bikes

Hart Moore

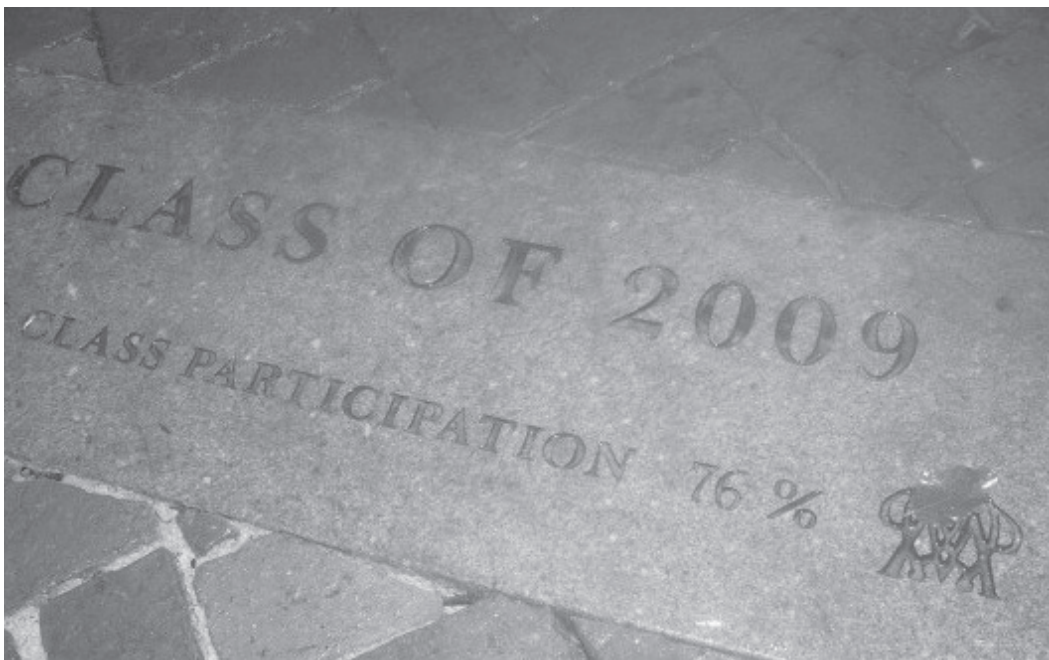
Assistant News Editor

As is customary, William and Mary Police conducted a summer roundup of all unregistered bikes on campus. If your bike was not specifically registered for the 2008 – 2009 school year, it is likely in the custody of Campus Police.

To retrieve a confiscated bike, the owner must provide proof of ownership to the William and Mary Police. This amounts to either a printed receipt for your bike, or a receipt for the lock or helmet which may have been found with your bike. Unfortunately, many owners may have thrown their receipts out years ago. However, Campus Police

do hold a confiscated bike auction every fall for those bikes which remain unclaimed. These bikes typically go for a relatively inexpensive rate, some selling in the ballpark of \$5, which allows for relatively inexpensive owner retrieval. Moreover, this is an excellent opportunity to buy a bike for the semester.

Proceeds from the bike auction are typically donated to a number of children's charity groups, so students can rest assured that their money is going to a worthwhile cause. This year's bike auction will be held on Saturday, September 26, and those interested are encouraged to call the Campus Police Dispatch Office at (757)-221-4596.



Courtesy of Kevin Dua

New milestone: The class of 2009 broke previous record giving despite deep recession. 76% participated, donating over \$156,000. The participation percentage broke the former record by 3%.



File Photo

Finders keepers: WMPD confiscated student bicycles remaining on campus following Spring semester.

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COLLEGE UP IN RANKINGS:

The Princeton Review, others give W&M higher ratings than prior years

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and The University of Virginia ranked 21st and 24th respectively. Some college presidents who have public ally derided the rankings claim to be punished in the rankings. Juniata College President, Thomas Kepple, even opined that to boost an institution's rating, college presidents must "summer in the Hamptons." This is where *US News* Publisher Mort Zuckerman allegedly vacations.

The rankings have clearly established that in order for William and Mary to eclipse its ranking in the low thirties, further steps must be taken by the College to improve its financial fortitude. *The Virginia Informer* has explored the potential benefits of privatizing William and Mary, as has President Reveley.

The College nonetheless earned laudable marks for quality of undergraduate teaching. William and Mary ranked sixth amidst a swath of ivies and others who "were singled out most often when experts were asked to identify schools where faculty has an unusual commitment to undergraduate teaching."

The Princeton Review for 2009 similarly ranked William and Mary among the best institutions of higher education in the country. The New York-based educational firm's annual survey of 122,000 students shows the College ranked seventh for "Best College Library." The Tribe also boasts the eighth best in "Quality of Professors", and fourteenth in "Happiest Students" among elite colleges and universities in the United States. *The Princeton Review* also designated the College the third best public university in the country by value.

ADMINISTRATION CHANGES:

College sees new leaders in charge

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search programs, faculty development, and assist in the entire university's budgetary planning efforts. Halleran succeeds Geoffrey Feiss, who served as the College's provost for six years. Prior to his appointment at William and Mary, Halleran had served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami since 2005 and divisional dean of Arts and Humanities at the University of Washington from 1997 to 2005. Halleran also taught at Connecticut College, the College of the Holy Cross, and was a teaching fellow at Harvard University.

Also in March, the College announced that Professor Davison Douglas would serve as the

US News has annually found fault in the College's weak endowment and peer financial standing, statistics which, if improved, could solidify the College as a top 25 institution. William and Mary's rank in *US News* also suffered a slide in recent years, a trend most visible during the tenure of ex-president Gene Nichol. Although resources are slim, *Forbes'* rankings recognized William and Mary as a "best value."

The Princeton Review's survey-based method of institutional evaluation allows a textured glance into our talented and "quirky" student body. The report encapsulates the nuances of our quaint existence in historic Colonial Williamsburg. One student notes that "dumb people stand out." Another concedes that the food is "greasy and not very good." One person even argues that "a cappella groups are more popular on campus than sports teams."

The College's "draconian" measures towards drinking are highlighted several times in the report. *The Princeton Review* has given the College demonstrably more praise this year than in years past. The educational company designated the college's selectivity ranking as 98, a ranking equivalent to peer schools Georgetown University, Cornell University, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Notably, the College's "green rating" in *The Princeton Review*- a metric of an institution's environmental friendliness- increased from 84 to 90. President Reveley linked this increase to the implementation of last year's "Green Fee," a tuition increase that the student body approved in Spring 2008 to finance environmental sustainability.

next dean of William and Mary Law School. Douglas succeeds President Reveley, who served as dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law for nearly ten years before moving to the president's office last year. Lynda Butler, Chancellor Professor of Law, served as interim dean of the law school from February 2008 until July of this year, when Douglas assumed his responsibilities. Douglas joined the College's law faculty in 1990, serving as director of William and Mary's Institute of Bill of Rights Law from 1997 to 2004. Like President Reveley, Douglas completed his undergraduate studies at Princeton University. He also received a law degree, a Ph.D. in history, and a master's degree in religion from Yale University.

HOUSING LAW MAY CHANGE:

Three person rule may become four person

continued from page one

the proposal there should be more work sessions to further evaluate possible changes to the law. Following the discussion the commission scheduled a public hearing for September 23, though Mr. Kafes made clear his opposition to advertising the hearing as addressing a proposal, adamantly stating that the possible changes were "not a proposal."

The current law states that no more than three unrelated individuals may live in any residence. This is cost prohibitive to students who are bumped when the College does not have enough rooms available. Many students are unable to afford housing close to campus with only three roommates, so they illegally add a fourth or fifth. This was the case when the students living at 711 Richmond Road last year, who were fined and some of whom were forced to find new residences mid-year. The issue was exacerbated by the fact that Professor Ruth Griffioen allegedly informed police and gathered evidence, including photographs that she had taken of the property.

In addition to last year's 711 Richmond Road controversy, Professor and Vice Mayor Clyde Haulman made comments that many students found to be in poor taste, calling the Steer Clear program a "drunk bus." Mr. Haulman has also commented that a neighborhood populated by students would lead to declining property values.

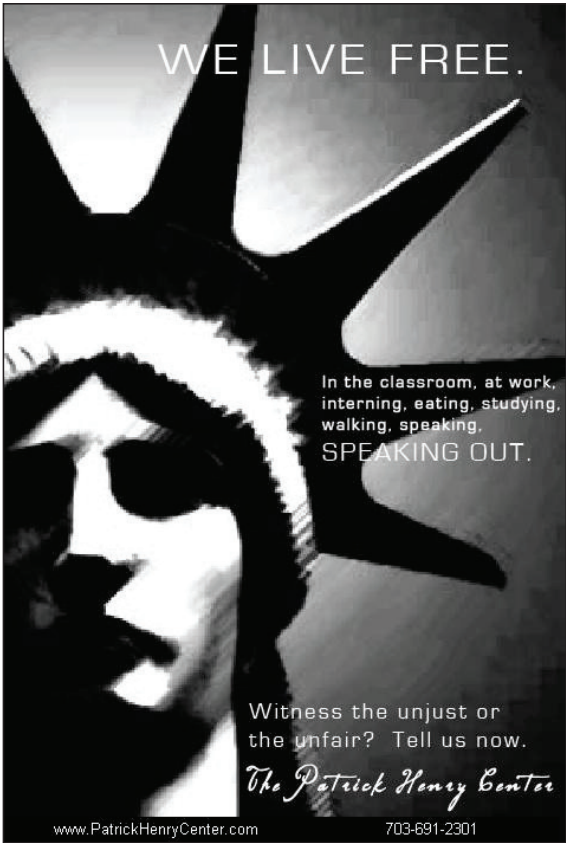
The three-person rule was also highlighted by the 2008 candidacy of Matt Beato for Williamsburg City Council. Students opposing the three-person rule rallied around his campaign. Mr. Beato lost by only 154 votes, a disparity revealing that the issue was just as

contentious as it was important.

During the past academic year there was a City-appointed focus group comprised of students, landlords, college administrators, and local residents. Parties are unable to budge on issues concerning disclosure of student residences and other threats to student privacy, though some members of the community, such as former City Council candidate Terrance Whele, took the moderate position of letting the number of residents be dependent on the number of rooms in the house.

Michael Douglass, president of the campus group Students for a Better Williamsburg (SBW), believes that the proposed changes are only a cosmetic change and do almost nothing to improve the rights of students. Mr. Douglass says that the definition of a bedroom in the bill is not clear, and that these permits allow for undue government interference.

Mayor Jeanne Zeidler said in an interview with *The Informer* last Fall that she was open to solutions that make the three-person rule "more flexible." She also stated that any changes implemented should be done so incrementally.



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Mock Trial looking for legal, acting talent

Laura Visochek
Staff Editor

William and Mary's mock trial team has been slowly building excellence and expertise in the past few years. As a member of the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), the team competes in a number of competitions each year. "Mock trial is the best way to decide if you actually want to go into law," says Daisy Weill ('10), president of William and Mary's mock trial team.

In the fall, the team attends various invitational tournaments, such as those held by the University of Pennsylvania. Regionals are in the spring. The William and Mary team also usually goes to UVA's tournament, which is held at the federal courthouse in DC. According to Ms. Weill, UVA's tournament is incredibly exciting because the teams compete in the same rooms where history is made.

According to the organization's website, "AMTA serves as the governing body for intercollegiate mock trial competition. Through engaging in trial simulations in competition with teams from other institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as a knowledge of legal practices and procedures."

Mock trial is more than just a simulation of what goes on in a courtroom. Stephanie Collins ('12) says that "It is such a good way to develop quick thinking and better speaking skills... It requires you to react and adapt to situations you might not have expected, such as responding to an objection from the other team or dealing with an uncooperative witness on cross examination." Ms. Weill is quick to point out that with the interaction with real



Courtesy of Daisy Weill

Laying down the law: William and Mary's Mock Trial team has been steadily accumulating experience and talent. Pictured are members of the team at a championship in South Carolina last year.

legal scholars, lawyers, judges, and law students, mock trial "gives you instant connections with people everywhere" in the legal world.

The evidence of the mock trial team's improvement over the last few years is clear. "One of the good things about mock trial at William and Mary is the team effort during preparation - everyone is willing to help each other out with witness examinations, developing case theories,

and avoiding objectionable material," says Ms. Collins.

But one area of weakness remains for the team, admits Ms. Weill. "A lot of mock trial really is acting... You actually develop an entire character." The team is hoping to recruit more theater students and those interested in acting. Each role, especially those of the witnesses, calls for a dedication to the character's description provided in the AMTA case descrip-

tion.

Ms. Collins said, "Overall, mock trial has been a great college experience." The team will be having its first meeting on September 3rd at 8pm, though the location of this meeting has not yet been decided. In the meantime, all questions can be directed to Daisy Weill, at daweil@wm.edu. Questions relating to the AMTA or mock trial in general can be answered at www.collegemocktrial.org.

Blame it on the alcohol:

Bourbon Mixed Drinks Top Power Rankings

It's not often that mixed drinks find their way into the beer column. However, when prepared correctly, these

cocktails can give you a sophisticated addition to your bartending repertoire. Here are the rankings:



Courtesy Photo

On the rocks: Gin and tonic is a classy and inexpensive drink for college students, not just senior citizens.

1. Jim Beam and Ginger Ale

The bitter sweet taste of bourbon mixes extremely well with ginger ale. So well, in fact, that this drink lands itself at the top of the heap. I recommend keeping the bourbon in the freezer overnight, and serving with a handful of ice. Jim Beam is a quality product, but if you're looking for a higher end bourbon, Maker's Mark will suit your purpose. Warning: The 'wax' covering of Maker's Mark is actually plastic. Attempts at burning this 'wax' onto your hand will result in blisters/burns. Bear that in mind before you've had enough to try it.

2. Gin and Tonic

The Gin and Tonic is rarely seen on the collegiate level, and is usually reserved for people over forty. However, this drink is just too good to pass up, and weighs in at #2. Tonic water is dirt cheap (about a dollar per liter), so you won't run into any financial trouble there. Quality Gin does fall on the pricey side, however. I'd recommend Pinnacle Dry Gin, as this is a fairly economic product that still maintains the quality of France's finest. Or, if you're feeling "patriotic", a W&M alumnus started Bulldog Gin. Serve with ice, as well as a fresh-cut slice of lime.

3. Malibu and Coke

This drink is often ridiculed for its low alcohol proof and lack of masculinity. Despite these drawbacks, its smooth taste boosts it to our number three ranking. The sweet aftertaste of the Puerto Rican Rum goes extremely well with either coke or diet coke, and again, it should be served with ice. As the title hints, Malibu Rum should be used in place of Captain Morgan's Puerto Rican Rum, as the latter is grossly overpriced for its quality.

4. Sprite and Vodka

Vodka is the most widely consumed liquor in the United States, and this mixes averagely well with Sprite. Unlike all the rest, this should NOT be served with ice.

Many students find themselves sorely tempted by Aristocrat Vodka for its low price of \$13 per handle. However, the quality of Vodka varies with price more than any other drink, and stooping to Aristocrat will only result in a lifelong aversion to Vodka in general. Smirnoff usually dominates the market on the pricey end, but our money is well worth the quality of the drink.

5. Anything and Milk

Besides a White Russian (coffee liqueur and milk), milk does not mix with any alcohol. It is completely insoluble with all liquor, and frankly, it disgusts me that anyone would ever try to mix anything besides Nesquik or piping hot chocolate with one's milk. Milk and alcohol ranks last on our power chart, a drink reserved for only the most desperate.

Editors Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.



Hart Moore
Asst. News Editor

Phoneathon tracks down alumni, re-connects them to College

Brandon Bleakley
Assistant Business Editor

With a large portion of the United States finding itself short on funds, many students turn to the William and Mary Phonathon to replenish their pockets with Wawa money. As one of the largest on-campus student employers, Phonathon commissions our undergraduate and graduate students to contact alumni and friends of the College.

It is a common student belief that the Phonathon is used simply to round up donations from alumni. However, the mission of Phonathon is quite different. While donations may or may not be considered during the conversation, many other steps of Phonathon protocol are taken before money becomes an issue.

According to Eric Scruggs, Assistant Director of the Phonathon, “One of our main missions in calling is to update biographical information and to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for our alumni.”

When making calls, students first announce that they are calling on behalf of the College and then update addresses and other contact information. The next goal is to establish a link with the alumnus, such as finding common ground through a major or extracurricular activity. Once fostering relationships with the alumni, the student may inform them about news or events concerning the College. At this point, students will ask for a donation amount based on past contributions.

One may be curious as to how the Phonathon obtains the phone numbers of so many alumni. It is actually more of an investigatory process than some may assume. The majority of the information comes from the Alumni Association, who did not respond to inquiries made by *The Informer* concerning their methods for alumni contact. However, a portion of alumni contact information becomes lost through moves and relocation. When this occurs, the Phonathon will use the National Change of Address Service, which can be found using a number of databases such as the United States Postal Service.

Often, alumni do not contact the National Change of Address Service. In such cases, the alumni become lost and completely out of contact from the College. Occasionally, due to these situations, a research service may be used to help put lost alumni back in contact with William and Mary.

Students who prove their worth in gathering donations at Phonathon can move up the ranks. Students who are experienced callers in Phonathon have the privilege of applying to call Fourth Century Club members, those who annually pledge a minimum of \$2,000 to the Fund for William and Mary. Since their donations are so important to the school, Fourth Century Club members are called only by experienced students.

Last semester, Phonathon made over 140,000 phone calls. On completed calls, the average donation to the Fund was \$95. Roughly 17 percent of the College’s fundraising came from Phonathon, contributing \$848,000 of the \$5.1 million that the College garnered from fundraising activities.



Courtesy of yorkcounty.gov

Colonial charm: Students and town residents now have the option of riding historic-appearing trolleys, rather than buses.

Thomas the Tank Engine? Not quite: Trolleys added to Williamsburg transportation service

Sarah Nadler
Managing Editor

In a November 2008 interview with the *Informer*, Mayor Zeidler promised improvements in the Williamsburg Area Transportation system. Improvements were unveiled in an August 19 press release entitled the “Williamsburg Trolley is Here.”

Because Williamsburg transit wasn’t crazy enough, students will now have classic looking trolleys to shuttle them around town. The trolleys will be “colorful red and green with yellow pin-stripe detailing and a brass bell on the outside, with brass railings and wrought iron supported wooden seating on the

inside.” The student friendly shuttle starts August 20 and will run two thirty-minute routes between New Town, Williamsburg Shopping Center, High Street and Merchants square. The trolley will be free of charge for students with W&M id and cost \$.50 for non students. The fare will be half off for senior citizens and free for everyone until September 20, 2009.

According to the press release, the Trolley will run seven days a week “with an emphasis on evening service.” Monday to Thursday the trolley will run 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m, Friday and Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The trolleys are handicapped accessible, air conditioned and

feature bike racks.

Trolley 1 will start from Legacy Hall in New Town and travel through High Street, to Williamsburg Shopping Center on Richmond Road then to the Prince George Street stop at Merchants Square. Trolley 2 will leave from the Prince George Street stop at Merchants Square, stop at Williamsburg Shopping Center on Richmond Road and travel through High Street to the Legacy Hall stop in New Town.

You can learn more about the Williamsburg Trolley on line at www.williamsburgtransport.com, or by calling WATA Headquarters at 757-220-5493 Ext 200, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Drink of the Week

Ocean Breeze



Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer



Jeff Dailey

It’s still summer, yes? Yes. So here I am starting out your year with a “summer drink.” Some of you resident Brosefs might decry this. “It’s a chick’s drink,” you may say. Well to you I say nay! I say it’s delicious, refreshing, and will definitely keep you calm enough to make it through classes. That and it has real fruit juice in it. Mama would be so proud.

Ingredients
Simply syrup
Grapefruit juice
Cranberry juice
Champagne

Directions
Mix one measure simple syrup, one measure grapefruit juice, and three measures cranberry juice in champagne flute (or Coke bottle). Fill to top with four parts champagne, and you’ll be golden.

Welcome back Tribesmen and Tribeswomen, and welcome frosh-mores. You’re going to have a lot of fun here. I guarantee it.

Editors Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.

Summer Music Recap:

5 Albums You Should Have Already Heard

Jordan Bloom

Arts and Culture Editor

I've always thought of "summer music" as an insipid thing, and for the most part, it is. Back in April, Rascal Flatts dropped the clunker "Summer Nights," which cautioned us to "let that Igloo cooler mark your piece of paradise." Sage advice. I propose these five new albums as a cure for bloodless Corona-swilling summer anthems, selected because they are not only fun, but strident and occasionally even thoughtful.

Wilco

Wilco (The Album)

Not as beguiling as *Summerteeth* or provocative as *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, Tweedy and the gang released the almost-eponymous album just in time for festival season. By almost any measure, it's an excellent album, with all the rises and falls and a beautiful palette of textures. Tweedy's songwriting is fine, but there is little vitality or muscle to the arrangements. The feel is of seasoned musicians strolling through familiar territory and deepening their catalog, but not breaking sonic ground.



Phoenix

Wolfgang Amadeus

The album title and the single "Lizstomania" suggests some obscure classicist paradox of taste and hedonism. However, contradiction is Phoenix's M.O.; the album begins with the line "So sentimental,



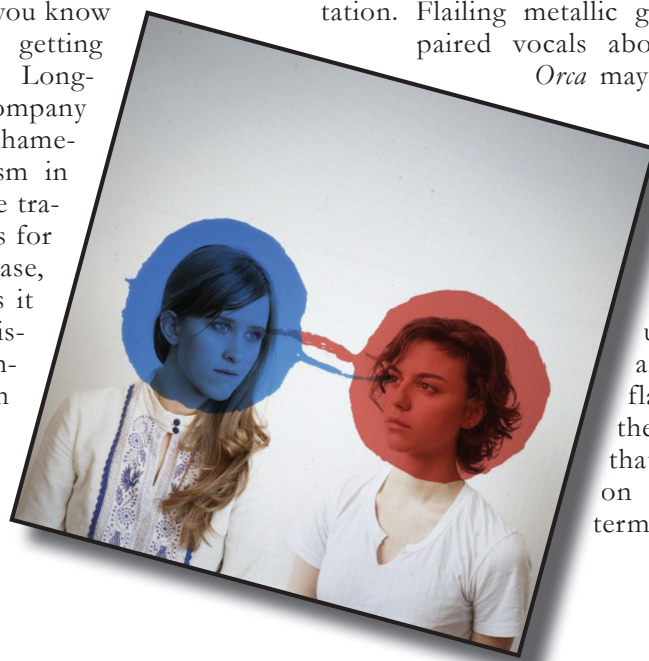
not sentimental no!" Coldplay and Strokes comparisons come easily between the glossy sheen of the album and occasionally obtuse lyrics. The best tracks stick to their signature tripping indie-rock bounce ("1901", "Lasso"); it's all too slick for any grand swells or massive stormy bridges to be convincing ("Countdown"), and Thomas Mars' voice is too often a hopeless dither. It's better than background music, but I'm not sure the members of Phoenix are the saviors of the new-new-wave that many critics seem to think.

www.VAInformer.com
All the news that's fit to go online.

Dirty Projectors

Bitte Orca

"Bitte" is German for "please," and an orca is a carnivorous whale. Now you know what you're getting into. Dave Longstreth and company shed their shameless hipster-ism in favor of more traditional forms for this June release, and boy, does it work. They distinguish themselves with the same interactive and visual songwriting, its restraint and small scale contrasting nicely with the left-field instrumentation. Flailing metallic guitars and paired vocals abound. *Bitte Orca* may be a pop album, but the Dirty Projectors take to it with such willful exuberance and unique flair that they acquire that label on their own terms.



Chickenfoot

Chickenfoot

I couldn't resist. The supergroup consisting of Sammy Hagar, Michael Anthony, Joe Satriani and Chad Smith with a single called "Oh Yeah" has been destined to run a-fowl from the beginning. They don't surprise; their first album is a horrorshow pastiche of every imaginable arena rock contrivance. The problem with aging rockers is that lines that used to be sexy, like "I just want to be your hootchie-cootchie man" (from "Oh Yeah"), and songs titled "Soap on a Rope" are now slimy and asinine (Hagar will be 62 in October). By the first track, they have proved they are morally as well as artistically destitute, spinning a



comically overwrought tale of a "wet-back" crossing the border (yeah, they really said that).

Passion Pit

Manners

The first chorus of the leadoff track "Make Light" ends by saying "tonight I'll make light of my treacherous life." They do. A buffet of synths and shamelessly cloying riffs remind me of the days when MTV at least knew it sucked, and a chorus of children gets us "higher and higher and higher." Make no mistake, it's a light-

hearted album, but undeniable songwriting chops keep it from nestling into parody. In a perfect flash of self-awareness, singer Michael Angelakos justifies all the pomp and put-on "epic"-ness, warning that "quiet minds don't know their worth." I couldn't have said it better. *Manners* is a hearty meal masquerading as tooth-rotting candy, making it the best of both worlds.



The Finer Side: Keeping it summer all year long

Oh, how elusive those lazy days of summer seem. The warm weather, days free from the demands of classes, the Fourth of July picnics, and the summer blockbuster movies. Just the word “summer” conjures up images and memories for us that always seem so happy and carefree. And then fall comes. With the start of the fall term, the demands of classes resume, and the weather turns cold again. Now don’t get me wrong, I love fall too, but there’s something about the dog days of summer that I just wish would never end. However, just because the leaves are about to change colors doesn’t mean we have to let the Finer Side of summer slip away till next year. Here are some tips:

Take time to relax throughout the year.
Summer lets us relax and remember what life is like outside the classroom. Set aside time during the year to sleep in, take a lazy afternoon to do nothing but un-

wind, sit under a tree and read. Summer is a three-month-long mental break; take little mental breaks during the year to let yourself recharge. Summer doesn’t have to be the only time you relax.

Do stuff outdoors.
Most summer activities take place outdoors – swimming, hiking, running, etc. Just because it’s fall doesn’t mean you have to lock yourself in the gym! Go for a run through DoG Street, provided it isn’t snowing yet.

Try new activities.
Summer allows us to try new things and be adventurous. Keep that spirit in mind all through fall! Go rock climbing at the Rec Center or go down to Lake Matoaka for kayaking and a picnic.

Beach Reads aren’t just for the Beach.
You know that whole genre of fiction (and some nonfiction) that comes out en masse during the sum-



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

mer, categorized “beach reads”? Well, don’t trade in all your beach reads for textbooks this year! Give your brain a break from Locke’s Second Treatise on Government with something more light-hearted. Swem keeps a popular fiction section at the front of the library for just such a purpose. And if you’re looking for something new, entertaining, and mentally stimulating, I recommend *The Secret Life of Lobsters* by Trevor Corson (Harper Perennial, \$14). You’ll laugh, you’ll learn, and you’ll appreciate that tasty crustacean on your plate so much more!
A few things I especially love to help me keep summer still around: sunless tanner is a wonderful invention. All of the color, none of the carcinogens. My personal favorite is Olay’s Touch of Sun (\$9, CVS Pharmacy). Since we’re not allowed candles in our rooms, Bath and Body Works Concentrated Room Spray in Coconut Lime Verbena (\$5) will make you feel like it’s summer all the time, no matter what the tempera-

ture is outside.
And my favorite find of the summer: Union Street Soapworks. I discovered these guys at a farmer’s market in Washington, DC this summer, and have been in love with their soap ever since! Made from all natural ingredients (none of the chemicals typically found in commercial soaps), this company’s soaps last forever, create a great lather, and have some of the best and most realistic fragrances for soaps! Based out of Michigan, all of the products can be easily found online at their website www.unionstreetsoap.com. My summertime favorites are Seaside and Toasted Coconut (which, by the way, smells just like toasted coconut!!) They also sell soap samplers that make great gifts for any time of year!
Summertime doesn’t have to fade like the setting sun; with a little effort, it can last all year!

Questions or comments for Jennifer? Email her at editor@vainformer.com!

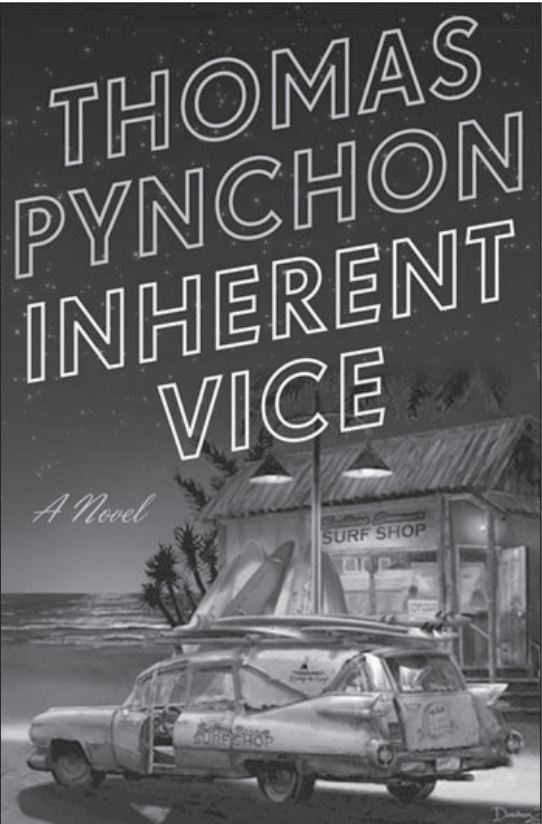
Book Review: Pynchon gives us a Sherlock Stoned

Jordan Bloom
Arts and Culture Editor

Without doubt or equivocation, this was one of the dreariest summers in years, and that distinction has nothing to do with weather. These were three months where Michael Bay grossed 390.4 million dollars in a week, and Stephenie Meyer clocked in at #26 on the *Forbes* list of the most powerful celebrities. Oh, and Michael Jackson died.
Thankfully, on August 4th reclusive novelist Thomas Pynchon bestowed upon us his latest work, *Inherent Vice*, a hard-boiled mystery noir centered on a constantly stoned P.I. named Doc Sportello.

You won’t find anything close to Sam Spade or Philip Marlowe here; Doc is a short fellow with a ‘fro, and he takes his notes on anything from napkins to his own hand.
The novel takes place at the end of the 1960s; Vietnam rages and Sharon Tate’s entrails have augured the death of free love and cheap weed. This is the deteriorating world in which Sportello investigates various misdeeds. This particular case (or several entwined cases) concerns the disappearance of his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend, a ruthless real estate tycoon named Mickey Wolfmann. His sleuthing office is called L.S.D. (location, surveillance, detection) Investigations; such little jokes abound.

Needless to say, drugs figure heavily in the story, and that’s part of the fun; his detective’s insight gives way to high paranoia and free association. For instance, when talking about the possible ethnic roots of the mercurial Mickey Wolfmann, he doesn’t know if there are Swedish Jews, but he “knows there’s Swedish Fish.” He later complains that a particular blend of ganje made him start “overthinking myself into a brainfreeze” after a hyperactive litany of unlikely connections. The other characters in the book are similarly colorful, with names like Sau-



INHERENT VICE

Author: Thomas Pynchon
Pages: 384
Publisher: Penguin Press
ISBN: 1594202249
List Price: \$27.95

cho Smilax, Ensenada Slim and Doc’s rival Bigfoot Bjornsen.
Inherent Vice is far more reader-friendly than any of his other work (2006’s *Against the Day* had around 100 characters and weighed more than an organic chemistry textbook), but it still contains all of what we expect from Pynchon: anagrams, obscure cultural references, and a wicked sense of humor. Its lightness, though, sometimes comes at the expense of narrative tension; characters call and subplots are exposed randomly, sapping the suspense of a typical noir drama. You could chock that up to the whole “psychedelic romp” side of the story and that the case just provides an excuse for loosely-related events to happen, a thin line on which a plot can be hung, a typical criticism of the genre.
Pynchon has restricted himself to an established style, and he performed brilliantly without sacrificing any of his unique panache. Not a dilution at all, he has focused his swirling worlds of obscure reference within a succinct narrative framework. Holding up as a mystery and a trip, *Inherent Vice* succeeds.

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Movie Review:

More mature, Sandler still isn't a master

Patrick Macaluso
Film Critic

Funny People is yet another film from Judd Apatow. He's been on a roll these days, so why stop? Apatow's protégé Seth Rogen takes the lead role as aspiring comedian Ira Wright, who begins writing jokes and working as the personal assistant to the ailing legendary George Simmons, played by Adam Sandler.

I have not come to expect great things from Sandler. Granted, we all love to watch and laugh at Billy Madison, but truly, Sandler has not left any sort of significant impact on American film. Although undoubtedly more mature in this film, he still doesn't strike the more highbrow note that he seems to be attempting.

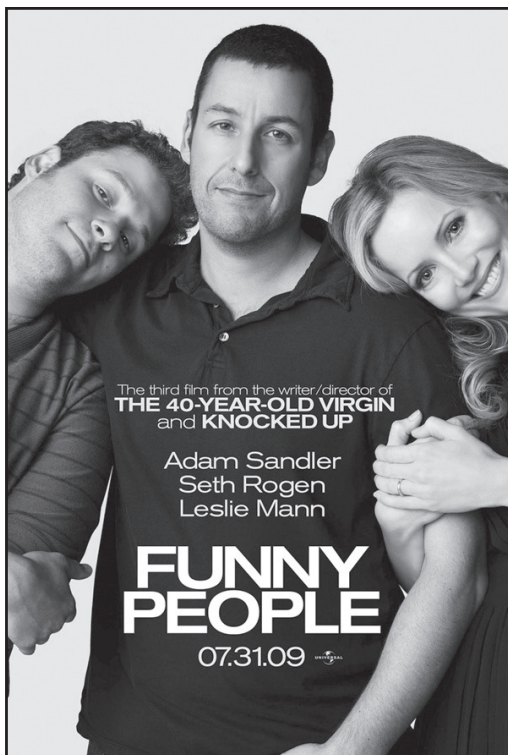
The film had its funny moments, and it keeps viewers entertained for the expected amount of time for a film like this. However, the film was at least an hour too long, and that extra hour of plot exposition gives us no greater appreciation for the characters or the real point of the film. I believe Apatow was trying to make a more mature film, and although he succeeded at this, it does not even come close to the quality of either The 40 Year Old Virgin or Knocked Up.

Despite the all-around de-

cent cast, the best in show, by far, was Leslie Mann, who played Laura, George Simmons's former love interest. Although it took some time to reach a true appreciation for her character, Mann's performance was believable and heartfelt. I would not be surprised to hear her name buzzing during awards season.

Undoubtedly, the film had redeeming qualities, but it certainly wasn't as good as most of us had hoped.

3.5/5 Feathers



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Kimball History at a Glance

January 12, 1933:

Doors opened to players from the College of William and Mary performing the play "The Recruiting Officer," the first play staged in the first theater in British North America.

Later 1930's:

Radio-Keith-Orpheum film distribution company, owned by John D. Rockefeller Jr., builds The Williamsburg Theater after delays. Walt Disney himself frequents the establishment.

Spring 2000:

Bill and Gretchen Kimball of Belvedere, Ca. commission a year-long restoration and renovation of the theater, resulting in its rededication September 28, 2001.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Live Performances

Thurs., August 27

-Founding Father
1:30 p.m.
-Summer Hours
4:10, 6, 7:45 p.m. SR
-18th-Century Play Series: Polly
Honeycombe
7:30 p.m.

Fri., August 28

-Founding Father
1:30 p.m.
-Summer Hours
4:10, 6, 7:45 p.m. SR
-Rocky Mountain High
8 p.m.

Sat., August 29

-Summer Hours
4:10, 6, 7:45 p.m. SR
-Second Flyte
7:30 p.m.

Sun., August 30

-The Girlfriend Experience
4, 5:30, 7 p.m.
-Summer Hours
4:10, 6, 7:45 p.m. SR

Mon., August 31

-Crystal Concert
11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.
-The Girlfriend
Experience
4, 5:30, 7 p.m. SR
-A Grand Medley
7:30 p.m.



August Schedule

Movies and Plays

Summer Hours (Not rated)

Sun., Aug. 23–Sun., Aug. 30
Shows at 4:10, 6, and 7:45 p.m.
1, 3, 5 screening room
77 mins

Summer Hours (Not rated)

Sun., Aug. 23–Sun., Aug. 30
Shows at 4:10, 6, and 7:45 p.m.
26–30 screening room
99 mins

Conversations with a Founding Father: Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, or George Washington

July 2–Aug. 28 every Tues., Thurs., and Fri.
(except July 7 and 10) at 1:30 p.m.

Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket or Good Neighbor Pas required.



Sarah Deans

Staff Editorial:

City proposes to treat students like second class citizens

A new year is starting and so begins a perennial William and Mary tradition; debating the much hated Williamsburg Three Person rule. For those unfamiliar with it, the basic idea of the three person rule is that more than three unrelated people cannot live together in the city of Williamsburg. We find the recently proposed changes to the rule unsatisfactory.

Some Williamsburg residents claim that it is to prevent frat houses, and other party houses, from popping up off campus like so many locusts, thus ruining the quaint small town charm with of Williamsburg with swarms of college students and all their drinking and puking and noise and litter. Many students however see this as a draconian measure that stems from older citizens' irrational and well known hatred of 'punk kids' and greatly hinders their ability to live off campus and enjoy the city as much as any local. Many students are forced to live in expensive on-campus housing or far off campus due primarily to fearful citizens' desire to keep young people off their lawns. In short it is the most devise issue straining town-gown relations.

Recently, the city council has delegated to the planning commission discussion of the possibility of allowing four people to live together off campus. Unfortunately this 'concession' is hardly a concession at all. Under the new proposed plan four people would be allowed to live together only in homes over 2000 square feet with four or more rooms and two or more full bathrooms. It does not include apartments, condos or town houses as available living spaces. These homes also have to have at least 4 parking spaces, each 8 feet in length. And just to top it all off this new allowance does not apply to all zoning areas in Williamsburg. Only 31% of Williamsburg homes have 4 bedrooms or more and not all of these are within the zoned, rental areas. Thus, the number of eligible houses would be horrendously small.

In addition to these harsh restrictions, permits costing around 800 dollars must be obtained from the city by landlords before they can allow students to move in, which would greatly reduce the desire of many landlords to rent to students as well as increase cost. Furthermore all residents would have to give the city their names and phones numbers to city officials and be prohibited from subletting in the summer. To add the icing on the cake the plan would force all houses to have to submit to yearly inspections by city officials and would give the city the ability to revoke the permit at any time if neighbors complain about disruptions "in good faith." This is an ambiguously-worded clause to say the least. In essence the city of Williamsburg is treating students more like registered sex offenders or suspected terrorists than fellow citizens.

These 'changes' should be considered unacceptable by the student body. If we take this agreement we have signed away our rights as free people to the city council of Williamsburg and allowed a bureaucratic nightmare to lord over our homes and lives. While concerned citizens must be respected, students cannot allow themselves to be treated like second class citizens. There are ways to please both older residents and students, including implementing stronger noise regulations and allowing students to live in New Town, away from quaint quiet Colonial Williamsburg.

But wait! There's more! Planning Commission member William Kafes has suggested a revision making it illegal for more than two unrelated people to live together. While this might just be a scare tactic designed to frighten students into taking the less dictatorial aforementioned proposal, students must reject outright both of these options. We, the student body must insist on fair and balanced changes to the 3 person rule that would allow more students to live peaceably off campus as well as accommodate Williamsburg's older residents.

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COME TO A MEETING:
Mondays
7:30pm
Blow 331

“Democracy” is a sham in Iran, and perhaps also at William and Mary

As many students prepared to make their way to Williamsburg for Fall classes a realization hit me. The events following the Iranian election this summer were in many respects similar to those that took place at William and Mary last year. Even in this incubator of American democracy, our college's democratic pretenses were challenged by the very undemocratic actions of one college body, and students responded.

Students returning to campus know the story. It is of the Honor Council's attempt to push through an opaque and, to the shock of many, rather authoritarian set of alterations to our Honor Code. There were three votes on this set of changes. The ultimate defeat would have made the code's founder proud, as the largest number of students believed to have voted on one side of any election in college history, either for a candidate or position, said “no” to the proposed referendum. 1,927 students voted no.

Though this vote received coverage in the campus press, it was not a national news story. Campus campaigns and votes on such issues rarely are. They are no less important than those of more recognition in despotic countries around the world.

What is often lost in the coverage of these events is the fact that challenges to democracy are not confined to Iran or North Korea, they are always present and need to be checked.

When the first of the three elections on the Honor Council's referendum took place it was in the late Fall of 2008. The vote was to approve a series of changes to the Council's bylaws. Among the changes were the elimination of future student-wide referendums for procedural changes, the alteration of triviality hearings, and the investment in the Chair of the power to close open hearings that were requested by the accused. Students were not made adequately aware of the election and on the day of the relatively unpublicized vote I received a phone call at 10PM from a friend who informed me of the election. As we talked about the referendum, and my surprise of being unaware of it, it became clear that there were numerous problems with the changes. We decided that it was necessary to stage a last minute campaign.

The eleventh hour campaign to kill the referendum began at 10PM that night, and ended with the close of

voting four hours later. Friends called everyone they knew, mass emails were sent, fraternity members went door to door to tell others to vote and to vote no. The referendum was rejected by a narrow margin, with only around 500 student votes cast in the entire election. The response of the Council was to run the exact same referendum only months later. This time the instant grass-roots effort of the first vote morphed into a tidal wave of editorials, opposition fliers, and a buzz on campus about what the Council was doing. Both The Virginia Informer and The Flat Hat ran staff editorials encouraging another rejection of the measure.

Attempting to pass undemocratic referendums by undemocratic means would be one thing, if it was simply an isolated case. But with the Honor Council of William and Mary this is more a pattern of behavior. The Council has in the past shut off voice recordings during trials to verbally abuse student

counselors, and consistently removes students from standing for election due to arbitrary standards. Removing unknown numbers of students from ballots is supported through vague definitions guiding qualifications. The number of strong candidates with student rights as a priority that have been removed is unknowable because the Council refuses to disclose the number of candidates removed, or why, citing “confidentiality.” Not disclosing the names or personal information of rejected students would seem to sufficiently guard privacy, but requests for this information have been denied.

Social issues gain traction and reform movements emerge when individuals collectively recognize that things as they are simply are not acceptable. At William and Mary such a movement is developing. Students of diverse backgrounds and organizational affiliations are beginning to mull an idea: abolition. Within the next year this idea stands to

transform into a true movement. Not a movement to abolish our Honor Code, but to strengthen it by abolishing a despotic and undemocratic Honor Council.



Steven Nelson
Editor in Chief



Sarah Deans

This cartoon was drafted immediately prior to last Semester's vote on the Honor Council referendum. It critiques the despotic changes and the Council of Chairs' decision to re-run the same referendum multiple times.

A cog in the machinery of “Change”

As sure as rising mercury, eager and enthusiastic college students going out to “change the world” in nonprofit organizations is a mainstay of the summer season. Bright and chipper students knocking door to door and standing on street corner asking “Do you have one minute for the Environment?” is a more common summer sight in some areas than swim trunks or farmers’ tans. This summer, your very own Informer Opinions Editor could be counted among their perky numbers. However, my experience hardly filled me with the zeal of a true believer and left me cold, unhappy and very cynical about the whole lobbying experience.

Now I am no stranger when it comes to campaigning in general. Last fall, I was out every weekend spreading the McCain message, and I intend to return to the trail as the semester goes on. However, my time spent working for the Fund for the Public Interest made me come to the conclusion that the method used by that organization is killing the progressive movement. Countless naive students who sincerely believed in the

cause, in my case it was environmental protection, left at the end of the day hating campaigning and the movement as a whole. Why? It is because of the cold and brutal approach that the Fund takes to its employees. I use the word “employees” because working for the fund is indeed a full-time job; they don’t take people who won’t work at least 40 hours a week. In my time working there, about four people were dismissed a day. The vast majority of people don’t make it more than three days before being shown the door. On my first day, for instance, six new people started, and only one came back the next day. I am sure that the Fund would excuse this behavior as necessary to remove the wheat from the chaff, but I find it hard not to believe that treating people so cavalierly loses many young idealists. Being fired after your first day surely doesn’t inspire people to go out campaigning for another issue again.

Yet even after you are hired as a core staff member, i.e. people who make their goals and last at least three days, the pressure doesn’t let up. No, instead it becomes a classic example of out of

the frying pan and into the fire. Quotas become key at this point, as they must be met every day or you face dire consequences. Miss three days, you are fired. Don’t make quota average two weeks in a row? Don’t let the door hit you on the backside. After a few weeks of this, I began to realize that I was little more than a hired mercenary or a petty salesman hawking wares, since the amount of money I brought in dictated my pay. In this environment, it becomes dog-eat-dog: every dollar another person gets is one that could have gone to you, and that lost dollar brings you one step closer to the chopping block. The system itself is designed to make workers fail; the spots you are assigned to canvass directly correlate with your average numbers. If a new core member has a bad day, they are

charged with getting water from a stone as they stand on empty street corners day after day until they are eventually fired. In short, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, literally. This is surely a very odd stance for a supposedly “progressive” organization to take and one that disenfranchises many a young liberal.

My time with the heartless Fund led me to the conclusion that this system of canvassing can only hurt the progressive movement in the long run. It treats its workers like little more than cogs in a money-making machine, which is a decent way to run a for-profit company. However, for an engine of social change, it is unthinkable and can only mean failure in the long run. To any college student looking to work for them I say, “Beware.”



Alexander Powell
Opinion Editor

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Noted lawyer James Comey ('82) discusses undergrad memories and career

Will be keynote speaker at the Convocation ceremony on August 28

Steven Nelson
Editor in Chief

James Comey's career is by any standard remarkable. Mr. Comey graduated from William and Mary in 1982 with a double major in chemistry and religion. By the time of his graduation, he decided to become a lawyer and attended law school at the University of Chicago. He served as the District Attorney of Manhattan and, from 2003 to 2005, he served as Deputy Attorney General. During his time in public service, Mr. Comey was influential in many notable cases, including the prosecution of Martha Stewart and the NSA wiretapping program. He currently is a senior vice president of Lockheed Martin and is the company's General Counsel.

The Virginia Informer: Where did you grow up, and how did you decide to attend William and Mary?

James Comey: I grew up in the New York metro area. There were lots of kids from the area who went to William and Mary. I knew two who were basketball players, and as a result, I visited. I applied to Harvard, Princeton, and William and Mary. Harvard and Princeton, to their eternal regret, blew me off. William and Mary accepted me, so I decided to go.

VAI: While at William and Mary, what activities were you involved in? Were you involved in campus politics?

Comey: I was not involved in campus politics, but I did participate in my first mass protest against the idea of expanding the football stadium. I was involved in *The Flat Hat*, and as a junior and senior, I wrote a weekly column. I was active in dorm council leadership as a dorm president. I was active in IM sports. I was not in a greek organization. I studied a lot. In the middle ages, all sophomore men would live in the Dillard Complex, near Eastern State Hospital. We would joke that it was a part of Eastern State. I was elected to be Hall Council President. Living in the Dillard Complex was unbelievable; there would be escaped mental patients in smocks wandering around. It really stunk to live there; the only way to campus was by bus. It was kind of like *Lord of the Flies*.

VAI: Do you have any particularly poignant memories from your time as an undergraduate?

Comey: I met my wife, which was awesome. I was 19, about to turn 20. She made a failed attempt to nominate me for Bryan Complex President. She claims that we met at a party before then, but I have no present recollection of that. It was 1980, and we've been together ever since. That was the best part of William and Mary. I loved my time there; it was an island away from the real world to think about things. I had a really broad experience, a weird double major of chemistry and religion.

VAI: You double-majored in chemistry and religion? How did you come to decide to attend law school?

Comey: I thought that I wanted to be a doctor, so I chose chemistry. Chemistry was in Rogers Hall, and on the ground floor of the building was the religion department.

One day I saw the word "death" on a bulletin board advertising for a class on death. It looked cool, so I took it. The class was taught by a great professor, and I took one religion class or another. During junior year, I had an epiphany: why should I be a doctor? After junior year, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer, but I finished the chemistry major.

VAI: Did you have a particular professor who had an impact on you?

Comey: There was a visiting professor, Professor Wooverton. He was a historian and a Bishop in the Episcopal Church from, as I remember, Maine. He was a great person and professor. Professor Tiefel, an ethicist, was also a great professor. In these classes what they cared about not was not point of view, but that you had dealt with all considerations, that you used language precisely and tight reasoning. This was great training for life and also to be a lawyer.

VAI: In 2003, as a US Attorney, you announced at a press conference the charges against Martha Stewart. What were your feelings on the case?

Comey: I didn't really have strong feelings on the case. I wasn't really looking forward to the prospects of announcing the charges; I thought it would get attention and distract from the importance of other prosecutions we were pursuing, such as Worldcom. I knew I had to, though, because if it was Jane Doe she would have been prosecuted. I looked up statistics on the crime and found that there were 2,000 cases by the Justice Department that year for providing false statements during an investigation. I thought of my hesitation about the case due to someone being rich and famous, and how it shouldn't be that way. I decided we had to do it. The charges were very common but not much focused on because the people are not usually rich.

VAI: From the end of 2003 until the middle of 2005 you served as Deputy Attorney General. How were you chosen for the appointment, and why did you decide to leave?

Comey: I was appointed to the position. I know mechanically how it happened, but I am not sure how it came to be that they asked me. I was the District Attorney for Manhattan at the time and was contacted by the Justice Department. They asked if I would be interested in being my own boss. I knew my family would be interested in moving away from New York. I left in 2005 because I had been there long enough. It's a very tough job, and I decided to move on. There was a new Attorney General, which made it a natural time.

VAI: While you served as Acting Attorney General, when John Ashcroft was hospitalized, you refused to authorize the NSA's domestic wiretapping program. There was a subsequent rush to Mr. Ashcroft's hospital bedside. Could you describe your feelings about these events?

Comey: That was a very challenging time. I felt a number of things, among them that my career was ending. I also had an amazing group of people around me, and I remember feeling immense pride in the Justice Department for doing a great job. I remember feeling great support from my friend, the FBI Director Robert Mueller. There is not enough ink in your pen to write the details. When you are in the middle of something like that, it's hard to believe it's happening to you.

VAI: While you served in the Justice Department, there was a planned mass resignation of Justice officials and others in protest of the NSA wiretapping program. Some speculated that if this occurred, President Bush would have been impeached, and that this information was kept from him by Vice President Cheney



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Cartel crushing: While serving in the Department of Justice Mr. Comey oversaw many major investigations.

until immediately before the plan was to take effect. Could you describe your role in developing this plan?

Comey: I could but I'm not going to. I've never given an interview on this topic and I'm going stick to that rule. Mostly because it would infuriate a lot of people from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* who I have said no to. A couple reasons I have not discussed this: I have no interest in being famous, it's been written about, the Director General wrote a report on it. Another reason is I think that lawyers involved in sensitive matters should not discuss them, so that people feel comfortable talking about...I'm not writing a book.

VAI: Politico reported a few months ago that some White House officials recommended your name be on the "short list" of candidates to replace Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Do you have any idea who these officials were, and were you ever contacted by the White House?

Comey: I have no idea where that came from. I had absolutely no idea what they were talking about, nobody ever talked to me. I have no idea who shared that and no indication that it was serious. I'm a Republican and served in the Bush administration, so I was thinking, "Why on earth would they consider me?" All I know on this is what I read in *Politico*.

VAI: Can you describe your role in Lockheed Martin? How is it different from public service?

Comey: It pays better. One of the reasons I like working at Lockheed Martin is that it feels the same. Eighty-four percent of our revenue comes from the government. We're supporting the FBI, the CIA, the Defense Department. We're serving our shareholders and helping the government do what it has to do.

VAI: Do you have any advice for current students considering law school?

Comey: I think it's a great career path because of the flexibility it offers you to do so many things. Legal training is a great thing, whether you become a lobbyist, a corporate executive, or a lawyer. It gives you an opportunity to get involved in public service, which is a neat thing.

VAI: Have you kept in touch with many friends from college? Any in government or career?

Comey: Not many. I am in Christmas-card-touch with a group of my friends. Obviously, my closest friend is my wife, so I'm in touch with her on a regular basis. I have a younger brother who also went to William and Mary, four years behind me. A daughter is there now. I also recently agreed to speak at Convocation.

VAI: Do you have any preference for a new William and Mary mascot?

Comey: I don't but I am dying to know what it will be. I'm on the Alumni Association's board, so I have to remain scrupulously agnostic.



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Renewing the charter: Mr. Comey spoke at the 2008 Charter Day celebrations, encouraging students to pursue public service.